

**District 109 - Road access (Kenneth M. Skytta testimony)**

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**From:** K MICHAEL SKYTТА <jksky@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** <stevenlindberg@house.mi.gov>  
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**Subject:** Road access (Kenneth M. Skytta testimony)

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I currently co-own 40 acres with a cabin within the boundaries of the Craig Lake State Park. My grandfather originally leased this 40 acre parcel from a lumber company in 1956. I took over the lease in 1975 after my grandfather died. The land changed ownership in the early 70's, as it was purchased by the Mead Corporation/Esanaba Paper. My wife and I acquired the land via a trade in 1983, and we have since transferred ownership to myself and four other family members. We have access to our property from the same road that has been in use for years before we leased the parcel. The public used a road that runs east to west through the parcel to access Crooked Lake. This road went through the northeast corner of the parcel and continued on the west side of Kewadin Lake, eventually connecting with the Peshekee Grade. Our 40 acre parcel is approximately 400 feet west of the Kewadin Lake Public access road. When I acquired the parcel, Mead officials informed me of the state ownership of the roadway and suggested that access should not be an issue. In 1987 the state surveyed our parcel and discovered a small encroachment of our cabin on their land, it was 2 feet by 10 feet, which we corrected by moving the structure. There was no question raised at that time about access. In 2003 we were made aware of the potential road trespass issue. I have requested that our access be granted via prescriptive rights. This request has been denied by administrative staff. I have expressed a desire to resolve this matter without litigation. I have applied for and received a proposal that I feel is unfair and gives no consideration to my specific situation. I was encouraged by state staff to file the application as a way of solving this issue for three other property owners in the area in a fair manner. None of these people feel that this was accomplished as the proposal is very one sided. I feel that I do not have the ability to structure a fair resolution to this matter on my own and have asked for an opinion from legal counsel. I am a banker with more than 37 years of experience in solving complex business matters, I am frustrated with the process that is being forced on us and would encourage legislative activity that will result in a reasonable access agreement.

Kenneth M. Skytta  
1715 Harbour View Drive  
Marquette, Michigan 49855